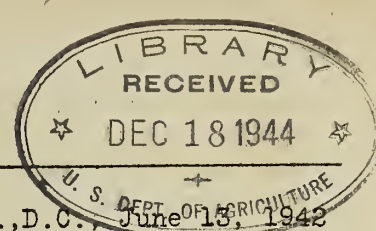


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1942
18A m 12
Exp. 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Administration



No. 20

AMA "WAR BOARD" LETTER

Wash., D.C., June 13, 1942

STORAGE: Grain storage situation is still bad and more farm storage will be needed to handle this year's harvests. Moving to alleviate situation, Commodity Credit Corporation has contracted for construction of 26,610 wood storage bins with total capacity of 60,000,000 bushels. Half are to be delivered this month and other half in July. Negotiations underway for facilities for additional 40,000,000 bushels. Bins will be either pre-cut or prefabricated and will contain no metal; in fact, some will be mortised to fit without nails. Producers desiring to purchase these bins should make immediate application to their county AAA committees.

In connection with storage situation, AMA's Warehouse Act administration offers these timely warnings: Pressure for grain storage will result in use of many facilities not constructed for this purpose. Many such facilities have no equipment for turning or conditioning grain. Consequently grain should be carefully inspected particularly with reference to moisture content. Only thoroughly dry grain should be stored in such facilities. Experience past year storing grain with too high moisture content even in regular elevators proved costly to many warehousemen due to heating. Such grain also more susceptible to weevil damage. Care must be taken not to overload buildings not built for grain storage otherwise may experience collapse of building as some warehousemen did past year with consequent loss from damage to grain and building. If building with concrete floor used, make certain adequate drainage underneath as concrete will draw moisture, especially if floor too thin.

Ample cotton storage apparently available in producing area. Some sections too much space. In such cases warehousemen might canvass possibilities for storage needs for peanuts or soya beans if produced in area. Need for additional warehouses for these products appears great in view production programs. Cotton warehouse space could be easily converted into peanut and soya bean storage, but cotton warehousemen should familiarize themselves with behavior such products while in storage. Sufficient ventilation essential. Can't be placed in warehouse like cotton and forgotten. Both products must be thoroughly inspected to see in storable condition before storing and must be carefully and continuously examined for condition thereafter.

LABOR: General farm labor program, including directives from Man Power Commission coordinating activities of interested agencies, still in the mill. But there are a couple of important developments on migratory farm labor to report. 1. FSA in several instances has arranged with War Department for temporary use of C.C.C. camps, not required by army, by migratory agricultural or cannery labor. Applications should cover specific camps, not in use, and should be made either to resident Army District Engineer or to Col. G. F. Lewis, War Department, here. 2. Under the permanent gasoline rationing program, postponed until July 15, the "C" books for essential military and civilian use will be made available for transportation of farm laborers. Not known yet what might be done on lifting rationing to individual migrant laborers. OAWR recommends that farmers organize associations to handle transportation, housing and pooling of available farm labor. This has been done in some areas, notably Oregon.

"BLOCK LEADER" PROGRAM: A program similar to that directed by the Extension Service in rural areas, "neighborhood leaders", will be experimented with in urban areas. AMA will represent USDA on committee which will direct program in

cooperation with Office of Defense Health and Welfare and OPA's consumer division. Program calls for designation of "block leaders" or "food wardens" in cities who will carry to housewives news on food supplies, rationing, nutrition and related subjects. It is probable program will be inaugurated on experimental basis in Syracuse, N. Y. which already has a similar system in its civil defense set-up. May be extended to other key cities, Chicago, Boston, Washington, Atlanta or Richmond and possibly Dallas later. Tentative draft of first program to be carried via "block leaders" to housewives includes "eat more cheese"; "use more milk" and "buy all the flour you can use". Last is based on explanation that wheat and flour are taking up storage vitally needed in war food program and the more that is taken out of storage now the better.

TRANSPORTATION: Expected now that WB's will be asked to study situation that will develop when ODT order requiring a 75% full load backhaul on truck movement of farm products goes into effect. It will be recalled that this order, covering all truck movements, requires that 100 percent full load shall be hauled to destination and 75% full load be hauled on return. It was originally scheduled to become effective June 1 but has been postponed by ODT until July 1. There is no indication now that it will be further postponed or modified. Because it is so revolutionary, particularly with respect to movement of farm harvests, etc., under these circumstances serious consideration of the situation is felt necessary.

CONTAINERS: Situation regarding bags, crates, hampers, boxes and egg cases about same as reported last week. Cotton bale covers: WPB made survey of bale cover situation for crop grown this year; while picture is fairly good, present indications point to some shortage. However, there will be meeting on June 16 of representatives of OAWR, WPB, AMA and other interested agencies to develop program to meet situation.

SOUTHERN EGG MARKETING PROGRAM: Will be suspended June 30 in certain areas now that flush production season about over. Letter is going out from Administrator Hendrickson to Extension Directors and Commissioners of Agriculture that program will be continued after expiration date, June 30, at those stations where receipts of eggs are fairly heavy. State men will be asked to recommend stations where program should be continued, giving details as to need for continuation. Entire program will be suspended about end of August until beginning of flush production season in South next winter. Meanwhile it is planned to hold conferences with interested State officials, WB's etc., in area to plan a new and better program for next season. AMA officials are pleased with operation of program this year; say that it was of considerable value in handling of local surpluses and preventing low prices in some areas.

EAT MORE CHEESE: Secretary Wickard issued a statement on June 11 urging American consumers to eat more cheese. Pointed out that whereas a year ago he asked American consumers to cut down on use of cheese in order that urgent British requests could be met, the current rate of production will provide plenty of cheese to meet Lend-Lease requirements, supply the armed forces, assure an adequate reserve and allow for increased civilian consumption. Explained that last year British requested 40 percent of total US production, then about 600,000,000 lbs. , and there was question whether this could be met. Due to consumer cooperation, and remarkable response of dairymen and the cheese industry to reach record production level, United Nations' requests for about 250,000,000 lbs. are being met. Current cheese production rate is more than 1,000,000,000 lbs per year -- almost 50% above actual production in 1941 -- enough to meet prospective demands.